WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Use of secondary airfields

2194. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fresh review has been made to assess the available infrastructure and capacity to accommodate all the aircrafts which the domestic airlines have recently ordered to augment their fleets; and

(b) if so, the results thereof, and the details of plans drawn up, if any, to meet the demands for accommodating additional aircrafts, including putting into regular operations some existing secondary airfields which are in disuse or are partially utilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Review by Airports Authority of India (AAI) is a continuous process in response, *inter-alia* to traffic demands.

(b) Airports Authority of India has taken up various upgradation works relating to provision of integrated terminal buildings, modern passenger amenities, strengthening and extension of runway, apron, aircraft parking stands, taxiways, aerobridges, as also strengthening of services of Air Traffic Management at major and other airports to handle the increase in the aircraft movement.

Modernisation of Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminal, Mumbai

2195. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for expansion and modernisation of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Air Terminal in Mumbai on BOT basis, was submitted by the State Government of Maharashtra in April 2004;

(b) if so, the details and the estimated cost of the project;

(c) the progress made so far and at what stage of consideration and approval the matter stands at present;

(d) the reasons for the delay and the cost escalation accrued to the project so far; and

(e) by when the same is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Cancellation of AI's flights

†2196. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India is facing heavy paucity of aircrafts and pilots and on account of this the flights have to be cancelled off and on;

(b) if so, the No. of flights which have been cancelled by the Air India during the last six months;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to get over the paucity of aircrafts and pilots; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Air India has cancelled 98 flights during the last six months. However, most of these flights were cancelled due to the deluge in Mumbai caused by heavy rains.

(c) and (d) Air India and Air India Charters Limited (AICL), a subsidiary of Air India, have submitted the following Projects for fleet augmentation for approval of the Government:

(i) 18B-737-800W aircraft for AICL.

(ii) 50 new long range aircraft consisting of a mix of B777-200LR, B777-300ER and B787-8.

To overcome the shortage of pilots, following steps have been taken by the Government:—

1. Capacity of IGRUA is being increased and the training facilities being upgraded to train more pilots.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.